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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,640	04/15/2004	Ralf Malskorn	26202.210	7676

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EXAMINER

MCKINLEY, CHRISTOPHER BRIAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/824,640

Applicant(s)

MALSKORN ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher B. McKinley

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/25/04 and 6/9/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered (see page 2, line 38).

Claim Objections

2. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: the word "recess" is misspelled (line 4); "receiss" should be "recess." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Griffin et al. (6,508,374). Griffin et al. disclose the same invention including tank closure (fig. 4) comprising a tank cap (10) and an electrically conductive tank neck (fig. 1, 14), the tank cap (10) having, for handling thereof, a grip portion (16) made of electrically conductive material that is in electrical contact with at least one resilient contact projection (24) that is also electrically conductive and, with that tank cap (10) in the screwed-on state, rests against the tank neck (fig. 1, 14), wherein the contact projection or projections (fig. 4, 24) is or are shaped onto or molded into the grip portion (16).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, Griffin et al. disclose both the contact projection (fig. 4, 24) and the grip portion (16) being made of electrically conductive plastic (column 2, line 66-col. 3, line 15).

Regarding claims 4-6, Griffin et al. disclose contact projections (fig. 3, 24) molded onto the inner side of the grip portion, in a leaf spring manner protruding obliquely inward in a radial fashion (column 3, line 10).

Regarding claim 7, Griffin et al. disclose the underside of the contact projection (fig. 3, 28) is pulled up towards the free end (24) and is chamfered.

Regarding claim 10, Griffin et al. disclose two contact projections (fig. 2, 24) located diametrically opposite one another.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Griffin et al. ('374) in view of Harris (6,325,233). Griffin et al. ('374) disclose the invention substantially as claimed, as described in paragraph 4, excluding recesses on the inner side of the grip portion made to accommodate the respective contact projections, wherein the contact projections are respectively shaped on a rim of the recess. However, Harris ('233) teaches recesses on the inner side of the grip portion (fig. 4, 228) made to accommodate the respective contact projections (217), wherein the contact projections are respectively shaped on a rim of the recess (224) for the purpose of being positioned in a spaced relationship with the said rim (column 9, line 59). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Griffin et al. ('374) with recesses on the inner side of the grip portion made to accommodate the respective contact projections, wherein the contact projections are respectively shaped on a rim of the recess in order to position the contact projections in a spaced relationship with the said rim.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher B. McKinley whose telephone number is (571) 272-3370. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM - 3:30 AM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on (571) 272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CM


NATHAN J. NEWHOUSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER